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NEWSLETTER - JUNE 1994

SPECIAL********SPECIAL********SPECIAL********SPECIAL******SPECIAL

A SUPER-ENTERTAINMENT night on Monday, June 20th! Two top films (one specially released after not having been seen on television for over 30 years) - PLUS a Crosby-orientated interlude of LIVE entertainment!

PROGRAMME

MISSISSIPPI (Paramount-1935) Bing Crosby/Joan Bennett/W.C.Fields/Gail Patrick

Bing in great voice with some memorable offerings including "Down By The River," "Soon," "Swanee River," and "It's Easy to Remember" .....W.C.Fields at his irascible, wise-cracking, scene-stealing best ...and Joan Bennett at her most photogenic.....all against a backdrop of the picturesque Mississippi riverboat scene of the 1860's! What more could we ask!

LIVE: A special presentation by a performer whose many years of top radio and ballroom popularity earned him the title of "Australia's Bing Crosby."
Enjoy DANNY KEATING as, with special accompaniment, he sings some of your all-time favourites.

ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (20th.Century Fox -1938)
This is a very special FIRST RELEASE, as its showing has been embargoed for over 30 years, firstly by Irving Berlin himself, and then by his estate.
TYRONE POWER, ALICE FAYE, DON AMECHE and ETHEL MERMAN star, with a great supporting cast including Jack Haley, Jean Hersholt, Dixie Dunbar, Ruth Terry,and John Carradine, in a Show Biz story which allows the presentation of 23 top Irving Berlin songs - among them, "Say It with Music," "Blue Skies," "A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody," "Everybody's Doin' It," "What'll I Do," "Easter Parade," "Oh How I Hate to Get up in the Morning," "International Rag," "When the Midnight Choo-Choo Leaves for Alabam," and of course, the title tune.
Never has the range of Berlin's unique talent been better illustrated!

A PROGRAMME NOT TO BE MISSED ..... but PLEASE NOTE!
Because this is a long programme, a 7.15 p.m.start is planned. It would be appreciated if everyone could be seated by that time.
Usual venue - GRIERSON THEATRE, off Treasury Place, City. (Ample free parking in Grierson's private car park.)

Late member Max Henson's Crosby LP collection is for sale at $3.00 per record, or $5.00 a set of two. A wide choice spanning Bing's entire recording career, plus some early Kraft Music Hall and Philco radio programmes.
Also other artists including Frank Sinatra and Al Jolson.
All are welcome to inspect the collection - contact Pamela Henson on 059 81 0077.

Good to be able to report that contact has been re-established with former stalwarts JIM PARRATT of Warburton, DR.JOHN KOHN, GRAHAM PASCOE of Bathurst, and BERNARD O'SHEA,Shepparton..all of whom have re-affirmed their interest in the Society, despite difficulties of distance etc.
Thanks to "Bing Talks,"for the mention which acquainted several former members with the fact that the VBCS is "alive and well."
Incidentally, anyone visiting the Shepparton area should note that Bernard O'Shea presents the half-hour programme, "DISTINCTLY BING," on Community Radio 3 One FM (Freq.98.5) at 2.00 p.m.on alternate Sundays.

JOEL WHITBURN, who publishes many books about popular music, has recently ranked the top 50 artists from 1940-1993, and the artists with the most songs in the Top 1000 titles over the same period of time. (Featured in "BILLBOARD" magazine).
Topping both lists is - BING CROSBY.

Popular artists, 1940-1993, were headed by:-

1. BING CROSBY 34517 pts.
2. ELVIS PRESLEY 27414 pts.
3. FRANK SINATRA 24519 pts.
4. PERRY COMO 23545 pts.
5. EDDY ARNOLD 23191 pts.
6. GLENN MILLER 21352 pts.
7. STEVIE WONDER 21093 pts.
8. LOUIS JORDAN 17290 pts.
9. LIONEL RICHIE 17110 pts.
10. KENNY ROGERS 16735 pts.

Others of note: 11. WHITNEY HOUSTON (16110) - 19.THE BEATLES (13218) - 20 ELTON JOHN (12804) - 27.NAT "KING" COLE (11556) - 34.PAUL McCARTNEY/WINGS (10722)-42.DIANA ROSS (9985).

The ranking lists the Top 50 artists across all chart categories, with points determined through an inverse system based on the rank of each hit by an artist (1000 pts.for No.1, 999 pts.for No.2 etc.).

****AN EARLIER BOOK BY JOEL WHITBURN, USING THE SAME SYSTEM, RANKED THE TOP 100 ARTISTS FROM 1890-1954. Again BING CROSBY came in first,on 35150 points,almost 10,000 points ahead of his nearest competitor. (Al Jolson was 13th.on 11166, Frank Sinatra 18th.on 10251, Perry Como 16th.on 10589, and Nat Cole 50th.on 5765).

MOST TOP 1000 TITLES (Ranking includes artists with 15 or more Billboard-listed titles. A title is counted only once even though it may appear in several catergories).

1. BING CROSBY 54
2. FRANK SINATRA 48
3. GLENN MILLER 41
4. PERRY COMO 39
5. ELVIS PRESLEY 35
6. CONWAY TWITTY 35
7. MERLE HAGGARD 30
8. EDDY ARNOLD 28
9. TOMMY DORSEY 26
10. SAMMY KAYE 26
11. ANDREWS SISTERS 25
12. STEVIE WONDER 25

Among present-day performers listed are 13.ELTON JOHN (24) - 27.NEIL DIAMOND (19) - 33.MICHAEL JACKSON (18) and 48.BARBARA STREISAND (15).

Not much doubt about who is the all-time favourite singer of the 20th.century!

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